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Nowe Drog:

POLISH EFFORTS TO INCREASE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION BY AID TO INDIVIDUAL PEASANT FARMERS

The following report contains selected passages from an article by M. Jagielski and J. Rasinski in Nowe Drogi, the theoretical and political organ of the KC PZPR (Central Committee of the United Polish Workers Party). The article gives some information on the comparative production of cooperatives and individual farms. It criticizes failures to give more attention to the individual farmer. It further stresses the need for increased aid to individual peasant farms and suggests ways of carrying out this aid. The article points up the Polish government's revised economic policies on agriculture with regard to the individual farmer.

It is imperative that Poland speed up agricultural production which up to now has lagged far behind industrial development. In the struggle to speed up production, we must keep in mind that the individual peasant farmer still dominates the situation, since more than 30 percent of Poland's farmlands are still in the hands of individual peasant farmers. We must give the individual farmer political, financial, technical, and scientific assistance so he may fully utilize his production capabilities. We must not endanger socialist development or weaken the worker-peasant alliance by permitting the disproportion between agricultural and industrial production to be prolonged.

Agricultural production has rise since the war. In 1952, per capita production was one third higher than before the war. However, industry has absorbed about 2.5 million people from rural areas, thus increasing the demand for food and raw materials.

The struggle for increased farm production ties in very closely with the struggle for the socialist transformation of the village on the basis of producers cooperatives. Only producers cooperatives can solve the problem of achieving agricultural production commensurate with socialist industrial production, and adequate for the growing demand for food and industrial raw materials.

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Comparisons of increases in per hectare yields of producers cooperatives and individual peasant farms are given below:

	Cooperatives			Individ	Individual Peasant Farms		
	<u>1950</u>	1951	1952	1950	1951	1952	
Four chief grains	100	100.8	116.0	100	160	103.2	
Wheat	100	108.5	122.3	100	96.7	201. 3	

Of the 8,070 producers cooperatives in Poland on 1 August 1953, 3,190 were formed in 1953, indicating a great change in the attitude of the peasants toward producers cooperatives.

The major responsibility for increasing farm production falls on the PCR (Panstwowe Gospedarstwa Rolne, State Farms). Besides supplying the national economy with meat, grain, milk, and raw materials, they must supply the peasant farms and producers cooperatives with selected seed and breeding stock.

In 1950 - 1952, PGR increased their production of commodity grains about 31 percent, sugar beets 43 percent, and cattle 113.7 percent, while the over-all prograin, 5 percent for sugar beets, and 15 percent for cattle. However, not all PGR farms fully exploited their calabilities for increasing production, as evidenced by the average of many FGR farms. About 700 farms had a per hectare yield average for the socialized sector; more than 500 farms had a potato crop.80 percent higher than the over-all FGR average, and 300 farms had a sugar beet yield exceeding 400 quintals per hecture.

The laxity and disinterest of the administrations of regional, group, and individual state farms, and the party's neglect of political work among the farm workers, are responsible for the criminal works of equipment, labor, and production reserves in many state farms.

The holdings of state farms and producers cooperatives correise 3.2 million hectares, only 18 percent of the total farm and in Poland. The individual peacethat production of individual peaceth distributed. It is apparent then excessive disproportion between industrial development and farm production, to tighten the bond between the city and the village, and so attempted the worker-peasant alliance.

The state and the party must assist the working peasant in applying modern scientific farming methods. Because of industrial achievaments, increased work productivity, and accumulation of resources, we can start the task of increasing farm production on a larger scale. But to be successful, the program must embrace the millions of individual present fearners of small and medius beddings.

In line with Dienut's speech of F. July to the Capital Person's demail, the party and the poverment and only every arout is refer the individual peasant famour in Covaloging mode alone. Large conditions are writer mandaged in the villages must explain the Francisco P till classics.

The state will increase its assistance to the individual covernt cover by a more adequate supply of suchinory, fertilizer, selected acces, and expansional goods. Beginning with 1951, it will provide teclerision, or readers, ordered nicions, and veterinarians. It will increase as last on a beginning and improve distribution of basic amedians are configurable to the villages.

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The increasing use of some important farm machines is shown in the following table (in thousand pieces):

	<u> 1951</u>	1952	1953 (plan)
Tractors (15-hp units) Grain drills (1.5 and 3 meter) Potato planters and potato diggers	31.8 6.5 6.5	38.8 8.0 7.9	45.7 11.2

The agricultural machine and equipment factory in Staroleka is under construction and will soon be activated. The first horse- and tractor-operated binders were produced in 1953. The Ursus plant, now being emanded, will produce combine engines, a new type wheel tractor, and a caterpillar tractor, which will be more effective and more adaptable to Polish soils than the first Ursus.

In 1953, we shall be able to supply agriculture with about 612,000 machines and tools, 6,800 tractors, and 3,000 stationary electric motors and combustion

However, we must remember that quality and assortment are just as important as quantity. To date, industry and party organizations in machine and equipment factories have shown almost no interest and taken no responsibility in this problem. Grain drill frames are poorly constructed and bend and break easily; the grain drills become loose and spill the grain; wheels and gears of sowing equipment break easily; wood frames of threshing machines are of poor material and bendy made, and steel parts are still worse. The consumers are exasperated and are losing confidence in domestic froduction.

Industry has almost entirely disregarded the production of small labor-saving tools, which are so important if farm production is to be increased. Industry must increase production of equipment such as simple sugar-beet diggers, drills for sowing and for distributing fertilizer, etc. Up to now, the Ministry of Agriculture and the people's councils have shown very little interest in the peasants' need for these tools, and have been responsible for the lack of these tools.

The Ministry of Agriculture should have better central over the quality of production in factories and demand immediate correction of production defects.

The GCM (Gminne Osrodki Maszynowe, Gmina Machine Centers) will continue to be the chief form of state assistance to small and medium reasonts for some time to come; but to achieve increased crop yields, the recyle's councils must see that the machines are fully utilized in the individual reasont forms.

It is apparent from this year's harvest carpaign that the people's councils, committees, and party organizations are not fully aware of the importance of the GCM in the struggle for increased production of individual peasant farms. Also, since the GCM is subordinate to the PCM (Fanctwowe Osrodki Maszynowe, State Machine Centers), the managements of the PCM are also at fault.

Although GOM development has improved as a result of placing it under POM control, a dangerous lack of appreciation and disinterest has recently developed. The party committees and organizations, people's councils, and POM managements apparently have no further interest in GOM's role in the economic and political life of the village and in continuing GOM assistance to the individual peasant farmer.

At present, the party and the government are increasing their efforts to give effective assistance to the individual reasant farmer; therefore, the importance of GCM's role is increasing. The people's councils, the party organizations, and the PCM must help the GCM to expand its work on small- and medium-peasant farms.

Various data are available on methods for increasing the productive ability of the GCM and on ways to supply the small four r with the tools he needs; more important, however, is greater interest by the Teople's councils and the proper



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ministries in satisfying these needs and in increasing production of these items. Service trades in the villages must also be improved; a common-sense policy should be established. A peasant should not have to trave_ 10 kilometers to have his horse shod, plowshares hammered, or wheels repaired.

Increased fertilization has improved crop production. The use of fertilizer per hectare has quadrupled since the war. The growing demand for fertilizer exceeds production although production has already increased several times over prewar production. The government is expanding its chemical industry, increasing domestic production of potassium fertilizer, and increasing imports from the German Democratic Republic.

From the very beginning, the government has given much time and money to the problem of drainage and irrigation, which is so important in forage production and without which we cannot bring livestock production to the desired level. To 1949, major improvements had been made on 342,000 hectures and minor improvements on 616,000 hectures. About 2,900 kilometers of flood embankments, destroyed by war operations, were rebuilt and 5,000 kilometers repaired. More than 9,000 kilometers of river regulating facilities were repaired. The Zulawy Gdanskie area, which had been completely flooded by the Germans, was drained. In 1953, new drainage facilities will be completed and existing facilities repaired over an area of about 200,000 hectares of pastures and meadows, and 58,000 hectares of arable lands will be improved. In 1954, large areas will be created for use as forage bases in many wojewodztwos. From 1945 to 1953, the government spc it about 1.85 billion zlotys for land improvement and has allocated 740 million zlotys for 1954. This should be an incentive for the people's councils in order to maintain existing facilities and to see that the peasant farmers make full use of

To assure continued development of farm production, the farms must be supplied with construction material for building or repairing farm buildings and storage facilities. Although deliveries of bricks, cement, line, etc., have increased every year, and deliveries of lumber in 1952 - 1953 doubled as compared with previous years, it is still not enough. The party and the state must robilize all industrial reserves to supply the villages more adequately.

We must see that the construction materials industry and the distribution machinery fully carry out the state plan for supplying the village. In 1952, the plan was not carried out because the PEGS (Pariatory Zarrad Gminnych Speldzielni, Powint Administration of Gmina Cooperatives) hid not submit the orders to the proper distribution centers on time.

The presidiums of the powiat people's councils should simplify the purchasing procedure and eliminate red tape in supplying the individual peasant farmer with lumber. Up to now, the apportioning of lumber has been very complicated and very often the peasant preferred to do without the lumber rather than go through the red tape.

To show its solicitude for the individual persont former, the government passed a resolution on 27 July 1953 reducing times under certain conditions enfarms which had not been adequately developed. Fund time and FOR fundamental owed as of 1 January 1953 can be canceled or maid even a period of time.

It is the responsibility of purby commandations to see that speculators, tex evaders, and persons who purposely understanded do not profit from the resolution. Party vigilance is most necessary because hostile elements and kulake will cite the resolution in trying to evade terror. To be effective, the resolution must be explained and the persons must be induced to my terror and other financial responsibilities on time.

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There are great reserves to be activated in the millions of peasant farms. For instance, most peasants still employ manual sowing and use poor quality seed. Only a small percentage use modern methods; manure is stored improperly with great waste of plant food equal to wasting thousands of tons of grain, root crops, and fodder.

There are also large unexplored reserves in livestock production. Only a small percentage of peasants use feeding norms and other modern methods so successfully used by PGR and producers cooperatives. Many peasant farmers do not produce enough fodder, disregard sanitation in farm buildings, and take no preventive measures against animal diseases.

The people's councils in the field must activate these reserves, they must eliminate obsolete customs hampering production increases, and they must effect an improvement in the general level of agricultural production. Up to now, the farm service of the people's councils limited its work only to disseminating rational principles. Instead of organizing the peasant masses and putting the principles in practice, it merely issued bureaucratic directions through circulars and orders.

Without personal contact the peasants cannot be organized to profit from modern scientific methods. Experts in the field must be in daily contact with the leading workers and through them influence the millions of individual peasant farmers.

The people's councils must have more effective assistance from scientific and experimental institutes. Every scientific and experimental institute should be a center for organizing the agricultural hinterland within the field of their specialization. It is apparent that the experimental institutes in Pulawy, Gorzow, Zdanow, and others have done very little to increase the scientific level of agriculture of the neighboring individual peasant farms. Only a few experimental institutes such as those in Stare Pole, Koludz Wielka, and Grodziec Slaski can show achievements as centers for promoting advanced methods of agriculture.

The daily task of ZSCh (Zwiazek Samopomocy Chlopskiej, Union of Peasant Self-Help) should be to organize the working peasants to increase production. Recently, the work of the ZSCh in the rural areas was grossly misdirected. The entire emphasis was placed on organizing producers cooperatives. Instead of organizing the millions of small and medium peasants to increase their farm production, the ZSCh limited its work to the narrow sphere of the village.

There are about 6,000 PGR scattered unevenly throughout the country and one preducers cooperative for every fifth village. These organizations depend on the 390 leading state machine centers for technical assistance. Therefore, the large socialized farm should have great influence on the small individual farm. The experience of cooperative economy should be made available on a larger scale to the individual peasant farm. The farmers should benefit from advanced methods of cultivation and livestock care; they should receive selected seed in exchange for poor quality seed; and they should be able to rent machines and equipment and receive proper technical advice.

To get the fullest benefit from the assistance of the state, party committees and organizations must see that each gmina, powiat, and wojewodztwo council works out a concrete plan of methods, instructions, and tasks that will raise the production level of individual peasant farms.

In its political work emong small- and medium-peasant farms, the party must assist the people's councils in popularizing the plan and must systematically check on its progress. Party committees must show more interest in the individual peasant farms in their areas, and they must familiarize themselves with the capabilities and needs of these farms to give them more effective political

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Up to now, the connection between the struggle for increased production of individual peasant farms and the transformation of the village on the busic of producers cooperatives has not been adequately understood or appreciated. It was thought that the economic and social assistance to the small larm happened the party's work in persuading the farmer of the superiority of the producers cooperatives.

There cannot be, nor is there, any contradiction between the absorbe to increase production and raise the agricultural level of the individual peak at forms and the task of building producers cooperatives in the village. Producers cooperatives must be developed through the years but this feedby must be based on the good will of the people. There must be a simult necus effort to increase production of the individual persont forms by fully utilizing all available reserves of these forms.



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